

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 23-0543
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APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **CHRISTOPHER TOWNSEND**, a citizen of UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful **HITCH DEVICE HOLDING ASSEMBLY** of which the following is a specification:

HITCH DEVICE HOLDING ASSEMBLY

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to trailer hitches and more particularly pertains to a new hitch device holding assembly for organized and efficient storage of one or more hitch devices.

15 Description of the Prior Art

The use of trailer hitches and storage devices is known in the prior art. U.S. Patent No. 5,682,998 issued to McCoy et al. on November 4, 1997 describes a system for packaging a trailer receiver hitch. U.S. Patent No. 6,070,441 issued to Bernstrom on June 6, 2000 discloses a trailer hitch security device. U.S. Patent No. 5,497,927 issued to Peterson discloses a bicycle rack attachable to a receiver hitch.

25 While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the need remains for a system for storing and organizing one or more trailer hitch devices.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention generally comprises a panel adapted for being attached to a wall. One or more receiver hitches extend

outwardly from the panel for receiving hitch devices. The hitch devices are secured by a pin extending through the hitch device and the receiver hitch of the invention.

5 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that
10 will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

 The objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with
15 particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

25 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a new hitch device holding assembly according to the present invention.

 Figure 2 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

30 Figure 3 is a perspective view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a top view of one embodiment of the securing pin of the present invention.

5 Figure 5 is a top view of an alternative embodiment of the securing pin of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a front view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to Figures 1 through 6 thereof, a new hitch device holding assembly
15 embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 6, the hitch device holding assembly 10 for storing one or more hitch devices 2
20 generally comprises a panel 12 designed for attachment to a wall 4. One or more spaced receiver hitches 20 extend outwardly from the panel 12. Each receiver hitch 20 is designed for coupling to a respective one of the hitch devices 2 to be stored. A securing means 22 is provided for securing each hitch device 2 to a
25 respective one of the plurality of receiver hitches 20. The securing means 22 includes aligned holes 24 extending through each receiver hitch 20. The aligned holes 24 are complimentary to apertures 6 in each respective hitch device 2. Each of the aligned holes 24 has a securing pin 26 insertable through the aligned holes 24 and
30 apertures 6 whereby each hitch device 2 is secured to a respective hitch receiver 20.

In one embodiment, each securing pin 26 is generally L-shaped. A plurality of cotter pins 28 are provided. Each cotter pin 28 is insertable through an end 30 of a respective one of the securing pins 26 for inhibiting disengagement of the securing pin 26 from the hitch receiver 20.

Alternately, a plurality of locking mechanisms 32 are provided. Each locking mechanism 32 is selectively couplable to a respective one of the securing pins 26 for inhibiting disengagement of the securing pin 26 from the hitch receiver 20. Each locking mechanism 32 includes a removable key 34 for actuating the locking mechanism 32.

A plurality of connection openings 36 extend through the panel 12 whereby the panel 12 is designed for being attached to the wall 4 using connectors 8 extending through the connection openings 36. The connection openings may be vertically aligned as shown in Figures 1 through 3, or arranged on either side of each receiver hitch as shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Conforming with conventional standardized hitch devices, each hitch receiver 20 is generally tubular having a generally rectangular cross-section. Each hitch receiver preferably extends about 4 inches from the panel. Each hitch receiver has a height and width of about two and a half inches. Alternately, each hitch receiver may have a height of about five eighths inches and a width of about 2 inches as shown approximately in Figure 6.

In use, the invention is installed on a wall. As desired, hitch devices may be engaged to the hitch receivers extending from the

panel where they are stored in an efficient organized fashion until needed. The securing pin is inserted through the receiver hitch extending from the panel. Depending on the style used, the securing pin is held in place by a cotter pin or a locking mechanism
5 for greater security.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form,
10 function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

15 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
20 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.